

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical fingerprint input device including a triangular prism, a lens and an image sensor, wherein the device comprises:

5 a light source for illuminating light in the direction of a surface contacting the fingerprint region out of three surfaces of a prism; and

an identifying mark on a surface opposite to the lens out of two surfaces not contacting the fingerprint region of the prism.

10 2. The device as defined in claim 1, wherein said identifying mark is printed on a film of a transparent light-penetrative material attached to a surface of the prism positioned opposite to the lens.

15 3. The device as defined in claim 1, wherein the color of the light beams and that of said identifying mark on the film are complementary.

4. The device as defined in claim 1 or 2 further comprising an operational controller for analyzing images inputted to the image sensor to discriminate whether images of an identifying mark are included on input images, and to determine related input images as afterimages when the images of the identifying mark are included as a result of discrimination, thereby generating an error code.

25 5. The device as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein the prism so configured that an incident angle formed by a perpendicular line (PL) connected to a corner vertically positioned relative to the fingerprint contact surface and an optical axis (OA) connecting the lens and the image sensor from the prism is established at a predetermined degree obtainable by an experimental value for blocking an input of images of foreign objects such as water and oil smeared on the fingerprints of the finger touching the fingerprint contact surface.